

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

WICKER, Roger (Republican)
Representative, 1st District, Mississippi
Elected (1994) to the 104th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Pontotoc, Mississippi - 5 July 1951
Home: Tupelo, Mississippi
Marital status: Married (Gayle) - 3 children
Religion: Southern Baptist
Military: USAF, 1976-80, JAG; AFRes, 1980-present, LtCol
Education: Univ of Mississippi, BA, 1973; JD, 1975
Profession: Lawyer

Political: Mississippi Senate, 1987-94; worked for then Rep Trent Lott as counsel on the House Rules Cmte, 1980-82. Defeated Bill Wheeler (D) with 63% of the vote for seat of retiring Rep Jamie Whitten (D). Reelected in 2000 with 70% of the vote and in 2002 with 71% to the newly-drawn 1st District now including Columbus AFB.

Rep Wicker is a conservative considered close to Speaker Hastert. District includes major furniture manufacturers as well as other forestry-related business along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and a Mazda parts distribution center. (Politics in America, 1998) Elected in Feb95 as the GOP freshman class president. During House debate on the FY96 DoD approps, supported additional funds for the B-2 program. Supported all of the elements of the Contract With America except the call for term limits, which he opposes. Challenged many of his House GOP colleagues in 1996 by supporting continued funding for the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission, Federal spending programs he said work to the benefit of his district. In the 105th Congress, lauded professionalism of service personnel involved in supporting peacekeeping mission. (CR, 18Mar98) Cosponsored legislation providing for a Medicare subvention demonstration project for eligible military retirees, requiring separate gender military basic training, and calling for the development and deployment of a US theater missile defense system.

During the 106th Congress (Spring 2000) gave up his seat on the HAC Military Construction Subcommittee which he held in the 105th Congress. Stressed the importance of Guard & Reserve forces to US national defense, called for immediate deployment of a comprehensive missile defense system, expressed concern with the poor condition of many US military facilities in Europe, supported the modernization, quality of life, and health care improvements contained in the FY01 DoD authorization bill, and called for prompt action to correct security lapses at the Los Alamos weapons laboratory in New Mexico. Opposed cuts in the FY01 DoD approps for the Air Force's next generation small loader program.

In the 107th Congress, chided his colleagues who opposed foreign aid, stating that the modest influence gained by international military education, demining activities, Peace Corps activities, and other aid programs was worth the money and in the national interest of the US. Supported funding in the FY03 DoD approps for the Navy's LHD-8 amphibious assault ship built in Mississippi's shipyards. Applauded President Bush's decision to discontinue naval training on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, stating that alternative sites exist.

In the 108th Congress, picked up Columbus AFB as a result of redistricting.
Additional: Member of Air Force Caucus and Military Veterans Caucus
AF Bases: Columbus AFB

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS – Subcs on Defense; Labor-HHS; Foreign Ops–VC

BUDGET